

JUNE, 2010

CAPE CARTERET

Incorporated June 3, 1959



TOWN CRIER

We're on the Web!

www.townofcapecarteret.com

POSTAL ISSUE

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Board of Commissioners

- Mayor Harkless
- Commissioner Fowler
- Commissioner King
- Commissioner Linden
- Commissioner Seegers
- Commissioner Parrish

Cape Carteret Town Hall
 102 Dolphin St.
 Cape Carteret, NC 28584
 (252) 393-8483

In my last "Town Crier" correspondence to you in March, I had laid out our efforts to correct some postal problems that exist for many of our residents. I also asked for your views on the issue. I now want to thank you for the many responses the town received and to update you on the postal situation.

Our original contact with the Post Office was back in October 2009. However, the District Manager/Lead Executive of the Mid-Carolinas District, Mr. David C. Fields Sr., would not accept phone calls from me, nor would he give me an appointment to see him. Instead, he referred me to a middle management individual named John Hill.

Mr. Hill first gave me all the reasons why they probably couldn't help us because of the major cost factor, possibly in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. He further suggested, if that occurred, we could contact our political representatives.

I reiterated that all we were asking for was an additional zip code in our

current post office. Or, as an alternative, to shift our delivery to a Carteret County post office, i.e. Emerald Isle.

He responded that they had to do an investigative survey and it would be March 2010 before it would be completed.

Further communication was not forthcoming from the Post Office and our town periodically inquired as to what was happening. Finally, in April, we were told we would have a report in early May. In May we received their report, which was done without any communication with the town or its residents.

The result of their study was to allow us to use the Cape Carteret name rather than Swansboro in our address! We had been "given" this "perc" a number of years ago and the postal system knows full well that the zip code is the controlling factor, not the town name.

I have placed a copy of the Postal Systems' response to us and another copy of my response to

Senator Burr, Senator Hagan, State Senator Preston and Representative McElraft on the website for your inspection.

Obviously, the Postal Bureaucracy is not going to deal with "little Cape Carteret" and, in fact, is powerful enough to ignore the correspondence received on our behalf from our federal and state representatives.

Welcome to the world of bureaucracy and politics!

Sincerely,
 Ron Harkless, Mayor



Official Notice

Please use
 Cape Carteret, 28584
 starting July 1, 2010

Yard Debris Pickup Rules

SWIMMING vouchers are available at Town Hall. You must show proof of residency

For your own safety, please make sure your HOUSE NUMBER is on your house. It's matter of life and death.

All yard debris **must be out by Sunday night** of the pickup week. The maintenance crew will start on Monday and work their way around the town. Once they have been down a street and picked up the yard debris, that will be it for that

street. If you put debris out any time other than the weekend before the week of the pickup you will receive a warning from the enforcement officer. If you are in violation again, the enforcement officer will cite you the

\$50 penalty. The yard debris pickup is really starting to take off and the crew is finding it overwhelming. Please be patient with us as we work through this.

The next pick up will be **July 12-16** – You may put your debris out the weekend of **July 10 & 11th**
The next pick up will be **Sept. 13-17** – You may put your debris out the weekend of **Sept 11 & 12th**
The next pick up will be **Nov. 8-12** – You may put your debris out the weekend of **Nov. 6 & 7th**

Transportation Plan Survey

This Issue of the Town Crier includes a survey prepared jointly by the town, county and NCDOT. This survey is to gather input for the development of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for Carteret County, including Cape Carteret. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to Town Hall as soon as possible. Having an approved CTP increases the chances of transportation improvements.

Thanks for your help!!

- Leaves and limbs must be in separate piles or they will not be picked up.
- Limbs cannot be any larger than six feet long and six inches in diameter.
- **NO** trees will be picked up.
- Pine needles, straw and leaves may be put in the same pile. Pine cones cannot be in the same pile as the leaves.

What happens to your limbs and leaves?

You ever wonder what happens to those limbs and leaves that the Public Works Department picks up? Buddy carries them to the shop and then transports them to Newport Landfill. Then what happens after that?

CoastalGrow is the name of organic compost. It's made from yard waste (limbs, leaves, grass clippings) that is collected at the Tuscarora Landfill and the Newport and Grantsboro Transfer Stations.

Compost is an organic amendment to improve the chemical, physical and biological properties of soils. It is not normally considered a fertilizer as it is too low in nutrient content for all plant nutrient needs. However,

compost has many benefits for soil improvement and plant growth.

The process starts by grinding only clean yard waste (leaves, limbs, etc.) for compost. No painted, pressure-treated or creosote wood is used. After grinding, the material is laid out in windrows and water is added. As the windrows are tended, the internal temperature of the windrows begins to increase, killing off weed seed and other undesirable matter. As the compost continues to decompose, the windrows are kept moist and turned weekly to keep the process going. When the internal temperature registers at least 131 degrees for three

consecutive days, the compost is ready for the final step.

Finally, the material is screened through a machine known as a trammel screen. The trammel screen separates small particles of yard waste from large particles. The larger particles are sold as mulch.

CoastalGrow can be purchased at sites for \$30 per ton. That's only 1.5 cents per pound. What a deal! For additional information about CoastalGrow, please call (252) 633-1564.

Did You Know.....?

One inch of rain on one acre of land equals 28,000 gallons of water.



From the Clerk's Desk

THANK YOU.

I would like to say thank you to all the Town Crier Staff for helping hand deliver the newsletter to each and every house back in March. The residents were thrilled. I also would like to thank Jennifer for putting together a very colorful newsletter. The regular newsletter staff was so busy back in March that I volunteered Jennifer to do it and she did a great job.

THANK YOU to the residents for making your tax payments on time. You make my job a little easier for which I am grateful.

THANK YOU to all the residents for filling out the Census forms. Because of your cooperation the town will have a true population count which will bring in more money to the town.

A few reminders for you all:

- If you see a NEW NEIGHBOR, send them up to see us so that we may give them information about the town.
- Please remember that landscapers and contractors are to have a PRIVILEGE LICENSE. Most construction work will need a PERMIT. Call or drop by and see David. A reminder that all fees and taxes must be paid before a building permit is issued. 393-7901
- We have a WEBSITE that has lots of information on it. The address is on the

front page of this newsletter.

THANK YOU to all the residents that make our job so enjoyable. We hope that you are pleased with the help you receive from this office. If you have any problems, please give me a call at 393-8483.

Enjoy your summer,

Karen M. Zornes, CMC

Town Clerk

and

Jennifer Holt

Assistant Clerk

From the Chief's Desk

Summer is here and as we all know, that means more people in the area and more traffic on the roads. We are already seeing an increase in the number of traffic accidents. Most of these are either rear end collisions due to one vehicle following another too closely and not being able to stop in time or vehicles running red lights. Please drive safely and be aware of what the vehicles around you are doing. Remember that traffic will be heavier and allow yourself a little more time to get to where you are going.

Just as tourists are coming to this area, many of you will be leaving home to vacation somewhere else. If we know that you are going to be out of town, we will ensure that your home gets checked frequently, both by the police department and by the community watch group. Also, you can help us by watching out for each other. If you know your neighbor is away from home and

you see something that doesn't quite look right at their home, call us so we can check and see if there is a problem.

We have been receiving numerous complaints of vehicles speeding and disregarding stop signs in various neighborhoods. Please remember that the speed limit on all residential streets is 25mph. This is for the safety of all residents. Children are playing in the area, people are riding bicycles, jogging or walking their dogs and vehicles are backing from driveways. Please help us keep your streets and neighborhoods safe by slowing down and coming to a complete stop at the signs.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. As always, if there is anything you feel we can do to make our community safer, call or stop by the police department and let's discuss it.

Chief Miller

Community Watch

The Cape Carteret Community Watch program is the longest continuous running program in North Carolina. Organized in the early 1970's, it has grown to be a very effective program helping to keep the town a safer place to live and work. There have been some criminal activities in surrounding towns that have not happened in Cape Carteret because of this program. We patrol the entire neighborhoods and members who cannot patrol watch their

neighborhoods and report unusual activities. We are another set of eyes and ears for the police department.

We have one fundraiser every year over Memorial Day weekend.

We invite all citizens of Cape Carteret to get involved and join the group. We meet at 6:00 p.m. on the second Friday of every month, except July and August, at the Western Park Community Center on Old Hwy 58 in Cedar Point. We usually have a pot luck meal and a guest speaker.

We are always looking for volunteers. Please call Ed Keating (252)393-9075.

The TAX RATE for Fiscal Year 2010-11 will remain at (.14) fourteen cents per 100. TAXES for the year 2010 will be mailed the month of August.

We just won our first court battle for a \$200 ticket given at the boat ramp. If you park at the boat ramp without a permit, you will receive a ticket. Fees for residents are \$50 a calendar year, and for non-residents \$350 a year. When using town parks all automobiles must display a valid decal.

Town Crier Staff

Business Name

102 Dolphin Street
Cape Carteret, NC 28584
Monday-Friday
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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This newsletter was prepared by:
Jennifer Holt, Assistant Town Clerk

Mosquito Problems Start At Home

- Clean overgrown ponds and stock with fish.
- Throw away old bottles and cans.
- Clean leaf-clogged gutters.
- Empty water from flower pot dishes.
- Repair leaky faucets.
- Screen or cover rain barrels.
- Throw away or destroy old tires.
- Change water in birdbaths weekly.
- Fill tree holes.



DON'T GIVE MOSQUITOES A CHANCE!!

Mosquitoes need water to breed and grow. It doesn't take much water and it doesn't take much time. So, almost anything that will hold water for one week or more can produce these pests. Many places around your home may be causing mosquito problems. Destroy or empty containers and mosquitoes won't have a chance!

*Town Hall closed on the following days
July 5, Monday-Independence Day
Sept. 6, Monday-Labor Day*

ATTRACTIONS MAY BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOW WEBSITES:

- Carteret County Chamber of Commerce - nccoastchamber.com
- Jacksonville -Onslow Chamber- jacksonvilleonline.org
- Swansboro Chamber- swansborochamber.org
- Swansboro Festivals - swansborofestivals.com
- Seaside Arts – seasideartscouncil.com
- North Carolina Festivals:
 - festivalandevents.com
 - ncfestivals.com
 - southfest.com
 - visitnc.com

If you go away on VACATION we have Community Watch cards in the office for you to fill out. The police department, along with the Community Watch, will keep an eye on your property.

*Need help.....
with building and repairs to decks, steps and ramps, painting, hanging sheetrock, or yard work? The Emerald Isle Chapel by the Sea Youth Mission Team is available the week of July 25-31, 2010 Please call Sara Mitchell (252) 240-9957 for details.*

Dogs are not to run freely around town. All dogs are to be on a leash. We also have an ordinance that requires that you pick up your dog's poop! Please, it is only common courtesy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Cape Carteret Board of Adjustment
- 1 Regular member
- 1 Alternate
- 1 Alternate member from the ETJ area

The Board meets the 1st Monday of each month at 4 p.m., when needed. If interested, call Chairman Smoke Betts (252) 393-6801.



Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) of the North Carolina Department of Transportation NCDOT), in a joint effort with Carteret County, in cooperation with the Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO), is developing a transportation plan for Carteret County. The transportation plan is a long-range vision that identifies major transportation improvements over the next 30 years. This survey is an opportunity to tell us what you think about transportation in your community.

Please take 5 minutes and complete this survey, your input is vital in developing a plan that meets the future needs of the citizens of Carteret County. You may also complete this survey online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/carteretCTP>

1. In which Carteret County community do you live?

<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Beaufort	<input type="checkbox"/> Bettie
<input type="checkbox"/> Bogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Cape Carteret	<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Point
<input type="checkbox"/> Davis	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Isle	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloucester	<input type="checkbox"/> Harkers Island
<input type="checkbox"/> Harlowe	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Marshallberg	<input type="checkbox"/> Merrimon
<input type="checkbox"/> Morehead City	<input type="checkbox"/> Newport	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/> Otway
<input type="checkbox"/> Peletier	<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Knoll Shores	<input type="checkbox"/> Salter Path	<input type="checkbox"/> Sea Level
<input type="checkbox"/> Smyrna	<input type="checkbox"/> Stacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Stella	<input type="checkbox"/> Straits
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			

2. What is your Zip Code? _____

3. Are you a full-time resident part-time resident or visitor?

4. (a) How many people live in your household? _____

(b) How many drivers are in your household? _____

(c) How many vehicles? _____

5. What modes of transportation, other than an automobile, do you use and how often?

Bicycle:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Walking:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
CCATS/Buses:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Toll Ferry:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Taxis	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Park/Ride Lots:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Car/Van Pool:	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Never

6. Are you concerned with safety or crash issues in your area?

- Yes No

If yes, please list specific locations including the road name or intersection and why you think there is a problem (for example: due to confusing signs, speeding vehicles, etc).

Specific Location:

Why do you think the problem exists?

7. Are you concerned about truck traffic in your area?

- Yes No

If yes, please give examples of specific locations and why you think there is a problem (for example: over speed, over size, logging trucks).

Specific Location:

Why do you think the problem exists?

8. To improve traffic flow in Carteret County, some solutions may be: (Please check the box that describes the importance of the following strategies.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Build additional traffic lanes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Control the number of driveways, cross streets and left turn locations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make improvements to intersections or better traffic signal timing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide additional types of transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Which roads are the most prone to be congested with traffic?

10. Have you experienced travel delays due to roadway flooding in your area? If so, where and how often?

11. In your opinion, what areas or MAJOR roads of the county could be better connected?

12. How important are the following goals? (Please check the box that describes the importance of the following goals.)

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat not important	Not Important
Increased Transportation Choices: More and safer opportunities to walk and/or bike to destinations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased Public Transit Options: Bus service to destinations; Park-n-ride, lots to facilitate carpooling, van-pooling, and transit service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faster Automobile Travel Times: Higher-speed roads with more lanes and fewer intersections, more connector roads, less congestion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community and Rural Culture Preservation: Keeping businesses in downtown areas, preservation of existing buildings and neighborhoods, maintaining the rural culture and landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Protection: Minimizing the impact on wetlands, streams, and wildlife areas; reducing air pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Growth: Building or improving roads and railways to attract new businesses and to allow existing businesses to expand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service of Special Needs: Better transportation services for poor, elderly, and disabled residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access: Better connection to employment, medical facilities, and higher education facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. The new transportation plan will include recommendations for new pedestrian, bicycle, and mass transit facilities. Would you use the following transportation facilities if they were built or improved?

Sidewalks: Yes No Maybe

If yes, what specific location?

Off-road trails for walking and biking: Yes No Maybe

If yes, what specific location?

On-road bicycle facilities such as bike lanes and wide shoulders:

Yes No Maybe

If yes, what specific location?

Question 13 Continued

Bus service around your area: Yes No Maybe

If yes, what specific location?

Commuter rail: Yes No Maybe

If yes, what specific location?

Park-n-ride lots (parking areas at transit stations or bus stops to facilitate the use of public transportation and carpooling).

Yes No Maybe

If yes, what specific location?

14. How can transportation be improved in Carteret County?

We would like to know a little about you, your answers will be kept strictly confidential. Please answer the following questions:

15. What is your age group?

- Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44
 45-54 55-64 65-74 Over 74

16. What was your household income last year?

- Below \$15,000 \$15,000-\$29,999 \$30,000-\$44,999
 \$45,000-\$59,999 \$60,000-\$74,999 above \$75,000

17. What is your ethnic background?

- Caucasian (White) Afro-American (Black) Hispanic
 Native American Asian Other

18. How long have you lived in the area? 1-5 Years 5-10 Years 10 + Years

Thank you for completing this survey. Your input is vital in developing a plan that meets the needs of the citizens of Carteret County. Please return this survey to the address below by August 1, 2010.

Mail to:

Carteret County CTP Survey
P.O. Box 1717
New Bern, NC. 28563-1717
Fax: (252) 638-3187

or

Drop off:

Cape Carteret Town Hall
102 Dolphin St
Cape Carteret, NC 28584
Fax: (252) 393-6799